

CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

July 1989

JOURNEY TO CHINA

Those of you who have missed seeing Bob Moore's face around the Service Center lately will be happy to know he is back on home ground (at least temporarily). Bob has recently concluded a 3-week trip to China. He was part of a delegation of BLMers which included Roland Robison, Deputy Director (leader); Dean Stepanek, Assistant Director, Land and Renewable Resources; David Williams and Kit Muller, Office of Planning and Environmental Coordination; and Larry Woodard, New Mexico State Director.

Bob was selected to go on the trip as a result of a Chinese delegation that came to the U.S. in November 1987 specifically to learn about BLM. The Chinese were particularly interested in the areas of planning and automation. They visited the Washington Office, the Service Center, and the Farmington Resource Area in New Mexico. Because the above-mentioned men are very knowledgeable in the areas of interest to the Chinese, and because the Chinese had met them already, they were selected to make the reciprocal trip.

The purpose of this trip was to discuss a long-term protocol, under the U.S.-China Science and Technology Agreement, to facilitate the exchange of information and personnel concerning resource management planning and land information systems. Visits to field offices were planned to learn about China's land resources, management and environmental conditions, and current information and planning systems.

The first stop in China was Beijing, the capital city. Here the delegation visited the National Office of the State Land Administration (SLA) and the U.S. State Department. From here they took a train to Xi'an, where they visited the Land Management Bureau, SLA officials, and a county outside of Xi'an to see how State Land Law is applied. Next they flew to Lanzhou, where they visited the Desert Research Institute, which shares BLM's interest in desertification and high altitude plant species. They also visited Dunhuang, which is on the western edge of the Gobi Desert and has land



Meeting with SLA officials

similar to BLM land; Chengdu, where they saw an irrigation project built in 300 B.C. on the Min River that is still in use; and Guangzhou (Canton), where they observed reclaiming from the Pearl River estuary in a southern county, and land use planning procedures (using comprehensive planning maps like ours) in a northern county. The last stop was Shanghai, with a population of 16 million.

All of the land in China is owned by the State (the national government). It is not public land in the same sense that ours is public land. It may be designated for a variety of uses, such as urban, industry, or agriculture. This allocation of land for specific uses is the business of the SLA. Agriculture has top priority in land use planning because of a national concern for loss of their agricultural land base (only 10 percent of their land is arable). Outdoor recreation on public land is a concept that is unknown to the Chinese, and is very difficult for them to understand.

The SLA understands the concept of a Land Information System and they have the basic ingredients of one. Some areas (especially Shanghai) have well developed cadastral survey systems. Bob was impressed that they lease land on a long-term basis by competitive bid for commercial purposes, and that they issue very formal land certificates to people who use the land. They have a land

record system which is presently all manual, but they are working on improving it. They are aware of the benefits of an automated system and they do intend to automate, but it will be many years before they are ready.

The people of China were very friendly and outgoing. Communications were facilitated by an interpreter who accompanied the Americans throughout the trip. They were also assisted by David Williams' wife, a third generation Chinese-American, who accompanied the Americans at the invitation of the Chinese government. Most of the technical people spoke English - some had written papers in English that were very good, but they had poor pronunciation when they spoke. It was evident that some of the officials could understand English, but they would never attempt to speak or even let on that they knew English. Bob said that all business meetings were very formal, and that when you were introduced, you were expected to exchange business cards. The Americans had their business cards printed in Chinese on one side and English on the other before they left on the trip.

Fortunately, the group of BLMers did not encounter any problems with the protestors while in China. Bob said that most of the demonstrations they saw were disciplined, orderly, and nonconfrontational - almost like a parade. The only disruptive demonstrations they saw were in Xi'an and

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Chengdu, and the disruption was mostly because of the number of people involved. The situation did not require any extra security measures. Their escorts did show some concern about them going out on their own in the evenings, but their concern was mostly that the Americans would get lost (understandably so, since they don't use streetlights or headlights at night).

One positive result of this trip was a draft protocol with the SLA that provides for future exchanges of technical people, assistance, sharing of information, application of technology, and resource inventory (which is part of their cadastral survey system now). Bob says we can learn from the Chinese in the area of LIS technology, especially in the application of software for microcomputers. They don't use mainframe computers like we do, but they make up in software what they lack in hardware.

When asked if he would like to return to China some day, Bob said he didn't really think it would be appropriate for BLM to make a similar trip in the future. Specific trips by technical people would be more appropriate. Personally, however, Bob would like to see more of the extreme northeast part of China, Tibet, and Hong Kong, which is very close to China. But not right away!

BLM PICNIC

The second annual BLM picnic took place Friday, June 16th, on the grounds outside Building 40.

Over 300 BLMers, their families, and friends took part in food, merriment, and games on the kind of warm, sunny day that was made for picnicking. John Greene, Gordon Jennings, David Nelson, Ben Rumph, Gloria Smith, and Robert Wagner were invited as "Guests of Honor" for having reached 30 years of government service during 1988-89.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, potato salad, and potato chips made up the bulk of the menu, with Creamsicles for dessert.

The children had their choice of an array of games organized by Lee Krebs and Gwen Moore. Many of them took the opportunity to have their faces creatively painted by Mimi Hillen and Mardi Stone.

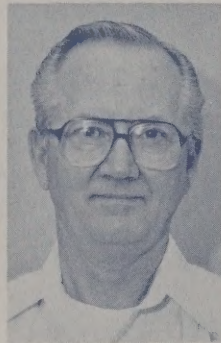
Door prizes consisted of coolers, ice chests, water jugs, and a selection of natural resource books. The "Early Bird" prize winner was Monte Thibodeau, whose husband Gene works in contracting. She won a set of two different-sized coolers and matching

water jug. The "Early Bird" drawing was a special drawing held for BLMers who purchased their tickets during the first two weeks of ticket sales. Ninety-six tickets were sold for the "Early Bird" drawing.

The Lakewood Fire Department was scheduled to give a demonstration for the families, but due to numerous emergency calls, they were unable to participate.

Roger Molinar and Barb Guest took pictures which will be displayed in the lobby at the south entrance of Building 50. So, if you want to see what your neighbors (e.g., fellow employees) were up to while you had your back turned, stop by for a look!

THUNEM RETIRES



Clair Thunem and his wife retired on the same day, June 2. Now, how's that for the ultimate in togetherness? Actually Shirley worked 30 minutes longer at Fish and Wildlife Service before calling it a career.

An accountant, Clair worked in the SC Division of Finance for 24 years, most of which he spent on various aspects of the general ledger. One former supervisor noted that Clair was instrumental in developing the new standard general ledger to be used by the Bureau in the new FFS (Federal Financial System). He will be missed by the many people he befriended throughout the Bureau in his 27 years of service.

He grew up in Belgrade, Montana. After graduating from high school he joined the Navy to see the world which he viewed for almost 4 years from the deck of a tanker, the USS Chemung. Shortly after his discharge, the good old Chemung went aground in San Francisco Bay, showing how much Clair's presence was missed.

He then enrolled at Montana State University where he received a degree in accounting. Two jobs in private industry - with farm equipment and wholesale grocery businesses - convinced him that life in the Federal government was the key to happiness and prosperity. He began with the Records Improvement Project in BLM's Billings Area Office, with subsequent tours in Littleton, Colorado and Portland, Oregon with RIP. In 1965 he made the leap to the

Denver Service Center.

Clair and Shirley did genealogical research in Kansas in June and now anticipate a fishing-and-relative-visiting expedition through the Pacific Northwest. After that, Clair may scrape the rust off his irons and chase a little white ball through some overgrazed pasture. And, of course, he will continue in the Friday night poker club with retirees Marlon Osborne and Clift Brownell, and certain other yet-employed BLMers. If this isn't enough to keep him busy, he has two sons, one daughter, and four grandchildren, all living in the Denver area.

Best wishes, Thunems, for a fruitful and enduring retirement.

McANALLY RETIRES

Shirley McAnally, a computer programmer analyst in the Land Records Systems section, retired in May. She had received her 30-year pin in February of this year.

She worked in the Computer Applications Branch for almost 7 years, initially in the Financial Management Section, before moving to her last position. Before that she was a software programmer in Computer Operations, having advanced from her initial BLM job as a computer operator.

Shirley is among a rare breed - a native Coloradan. She graduated from Wheat Ridge High School and worked as a secretary, most recently for the Environmental Protection Agency, before joining BLM. While working here she earned a college degree by attending school part time.

She has two sons and a grandson, all living in the Denver area. For the time being she is enjoying having some time for herself. Her hobbies include bicycling and photography - and a yen to travel to far away places with strange sounding names. And should the urge to work return, she contemplates working with a friend in the business of selling specialty tea and coffee items in a home party environment - as in Teaperyware, perhaps?

We wish you well, Shirley.

Reminder

Entries for the photo contest must be in to Linda Hill (SC-140) by July 15.